

THE LEADER.

To MAKE GOOD CITIZENS OF FREEDMEN.—Forty years ago the late Lord Macaulay said: "There is only one cure for the evils which newly acquired freedom produces; and that is freedom! When a prisoner leaves his cell he cannot bear the light of day; he is unable to discriminate colors or to recognize faces. But the remedy is not to re-imprison him to his dungeon, but to accustom him to the rays of the sun. The blaze of truth and liberty may at first dazzle and bewilder nations which have become half blind in the house of bondage. But let them gaze on, and they will soon be able to bear it. Many politicians of our time are in the habit of laying it down as a self-evident proposition, that no people ought to be free until they are fit to be free. The maxim is worthy of the fool in the old story, who had resolved not to go into the water until he had learned how to swim! If men are to wait for liberty until they become wise and good in slavery, they may indeed wait forever."—*The Right Way.*

SOUTH CAROLINA'S NEW LAWS.—A copy of the laws enacted for the regulation of the freedmen in South Carolina by the late reconstructed legislature, shows that they are perfectly atrocious, and worse than slavery. For instance, it requires the colored people to make contract for labor; to remain on the plantation; the hours for work are from sunrise to sunset, and those leaving horses to care for must do so that they may be ready to go to work at daylight. The act is interspersed freely with punishment for offenses not now known to any criminal code in the North.—Union.

Congress, it is rumored, will take the work of reconstruction into its own hands, when it assembles, as it should do. It is said that a bill is drafted for the organization of governments for the States heretofore in rebellion, by the appointment of governors with power to call conventions to frame new constitutions, on the approval of which by Congress the reconstructed States will be admitted by a special act. This is in accordance with Mr. Sumner's plan two years ago. It will save the President from the charge of all such unconstitutional acts as appointing provisional governors dictating terms to the rebel States.—*Republican.*

A capital story is told of the French novelist, Alexandre Dumas. At the Theatre Historique, a rich tradesman—one of the shareholders of the theatre—solicited the honor of an introduction to him. On the favor being granted he thus addressed Dumas:—"You're a mulatto, are you not?" "Oh, yes," said the novelist, wondering what was to come next. "Then your father was a negro?" "Of course he was," replied Dumas, winking at those present. "Then your grandfather, (hesitating) your grandfather—" "Was an ape," interrupted Dumas. "Bah!" "There is no 'bah' in the matter," continued Dumas, "my family begins where yours ends," and he turned his back upon him amidst roars of laughter from the bystanders.

OLLAPODRIDA.

Gen. Grant approves Point Lookout as the site for a home for disabled soldiers.

Annexation clubs are popular in Lower Canada.

Four thousand bales of Government cotton were destroyed by fire at Columbus, Miss., recently.

In Chicago they have had a collision between a steam and a street-car, at a Washington. Nobody killed.

Professor Agassiz, at last accounts, was following the upward course of the Amazon river.

Buttons as large as five franc pieces are the style with New York ladies, as they used to be with the New York roughs.

Under the new overland arrangement mails leave New Orleans tri-weekly, reaching here in five days.

Colonel Bulkley, of the Overland Telegraph Company has arrived at San Francisco, and reports good progress.

Resolutions in favor of negro suffrage have been indefinitely postponed in the Missouri House of Representatives, by a majority of two.

Ominous tomahawks, swords, battle-axes, are worn on ladies' hats now-a-days, and appropriately named Harriettes, after Miss Harris, the murderess.

Rev. R. J. Breckinridge, D. D., has declined to accept the presidency of Washington and Jefferson College, to which he was elected last summer.

Advices from Nassau state that Colonel Wood and party, who went to Brazil to negotiate for lands for some six hundred Southern planters, had met an enthusiastic reception.

Advices from Nassau, N. P., announce the presence of Lieut. Gen. Jubal A. Early in that place, where he is residing for the present, and is engaged in writing a history of his campaigns.

The British Consul-General at Havana, Mr. Bunch, (well-known blockade-runner,) has been appointed Charge d' Affairs to Central America. His successor will be Mr. Synges, of the Sandwich Islands.

They have a vigilance committee in Montana Territory. Recently they pulled a gay deceiver from bed, and gave him fifteen minutes to choose between a knot with hemp and a knot with orange flowers, etc.

The small-pox has made its appearance, in its most alarming form, in Menard county, Illinois, and the greatest consternation is felt among the citizens. Forty cases are reported at Athens alone, a village of about 200 inhabitants.

The action of Gen. Wood, commanding in Alabama, in refusing to obey a writ of *habeas corpus* in the case of Dr. Dexter, charged with cotton frauds against the Government, was sustained by the President.

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